

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

PRS-01 SP-02 /056 W

----- 025504

R 150030Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 515

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0442

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EMIN, PP

SUBJ: SECOND DAY OF VIOLENCE AT BOUGAINVILLE COPPER

REF: PORT MORESBY 440

1. LOCAL PRESS IN EXTREMELY DISJOINTED ACCOUNT REPORTS RIOTS AGAIN BROKE OUT EARLY MORNING MAY 13. POLICE REENFORCEMENTS ARRIVING ON SCENE INITIALLY RESULTED IN INCREASED VIOLENCE FROM WORKERS WHO WERE LATER DISPERSED BY POLICE MOBILE SQUAD ATTACK. POLICE STONED, AND SEVERAL RECEIVED SUPERFICIAL WOUNDS. RIOTERS ATTEMPTED DRIVE BULLDOZER INTO POLICE RANKS BUT FAILED. SCORES OF VEHICLES HAVE BEEN SMASHED, RUN OVER CLIFFS, DRIVEN INTO RIVERS, ETC. (ONE ESTIMATE RUNS TO TWO HUNDRED VEHICLES) AND TOTAL DAMAGE ESTIMATED NOW AT ONE MILLION AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS. DAMAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY GREATER IF MINE OFFICIALS HAD NOT DEADLINED MUCH OF MINE S EQUIPMENT AND PLACED GUARD OVER MINE S EXPLOSIVE MAGAZINE.

2. ALL WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAVE BEEN EVACUATED FROM MINE SITE. TWO EXPATRIATES REPORTED TO BE SERIOUSLY INJURED.

3. THREE MOBILE SQUADS BROUGHT IN FROM RABAU. ARRESTED MORE THAN 100 WORKERS WHO WILL BE CHARGED WITH RIOTOUS BEHAVIOR  
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AND ARRESTS ARE CONTINUING. THERE ARE OVER 220 POLICE AT

SITE AND PRESS REPORTS THAT OVER 100 ROUNDS OF TEAR GAS HAVE BEEN USED TO QUELL RIOTERS.

4. POLICE INTEND CONTINUE MOP-UP ACTION EARLY MORNING MAY 15. BOUGAINVILLE POLICE SUPERINTENDENT QUOTED IN PRESS AS STATING QUOTE WE GIVE THEM A LESSON NOT TO TRY TANGLING WITH POLICE UNQUOTE.

5. DESPITE ASSURANCE THAT RIOT IS UNDER CONTROL, IT IS FEARED THAT LOOTING WILL BE NEXT PROBLEM.

6. ECONOFF WAS PRESENT BOUGAINVILLE PERIOD 10-12 MAY ON FAMILIARIZATION TRIP AND REPORTS DAMAGE AT MINE SITE QUITE EXTENSIVE. STATES BACKGROUND POINTS LEADING TO RIOT ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. WORKERS ARE UPSET THAT THEY RECEIVED UP TO ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS PER WEEK (FOR DRIVERS OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT) DURING THE INITIAL CONSTRUCTION PERIOD OF THE MINE, BUT DURING THE PERIOD SINCE MINE COMMENCED OPERATIONS, SALARIES HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO FORTY DOLLARS PER WEEK. (MINE OFFICIALS INSIST THAT THIS WAS DONE AT INSISTENCE PNG GOVT TO BRING MINE WAGES MORE IN LINE WITH COUNTRY S TOTAL WORK FORCE).

B. CLERICAL STAFF AT MINE RECEIVED INCREASE IN JANUARY WHILE MINE WORKERS DID NOT.

C. WORKERS IN ARAWA RECEIVE 22 DOLLARS PER WEEK WHILE SAME CATEGORY AT MINE SITE RECEIVE 18 DOLLARS PER WEEK PLUS FOOD. THIS IS EVIDENTLY CONFUSING TO WORKERS ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS TO BE LOGICAL TO MINE MANAGEMENT.

D. WORKERS BELIEVE COMPANY INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS MANAGER (AN EXPATRIATE) IS HOSTILE TO UNIONS, INSENSITIVE TO PNG WORKERS AND PLAYS FAVORITES.

E. TROUBLES SPARKED BY SACKING OF UNION VICE PRESIDENT LAST WEEK AFTER HE INVOLVED IN FIGHT AT COMPANY CANTEEN. WORKERS BELIEVE UNION AFFILIATION WAS CAUSED OF FIRING AND STATE THAT OTHERS HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN FIGHTS WITHOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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BEING SACKED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** EMIN, ELAB, PP  
**To:** STATE  
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